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SENATOR BILL HARDIMAN TO REFLECT ON MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

Lansing- Senator Bill Hardiman (R-Kentwood), the first African American Republican leader to serve in the Michigan Senate in nearly seventy years and the first ever to be elected from West Michigan, will participate in the following activities to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Day and the civil rights movement. On Sunday, January 19, 2003 Senator Hardiman will attend the IDMA Fellowship Service at First Assembly of God. Monday, January 20, 2003 the Senator will participate in the 17th Annual "Inherit the Dream" march and speak in the program at Fountain Street Church. Later that evening he will be one of the distinguished guest speakers for "Open Eyes and Open Heart" a program to unite against racism at Kentwood Community Church.

Throughout his lifetime, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a triumphant leader in American History because of his strong motivation to unite people from all walks of life to join together as equals to address important community issues. We commemorate Dr. King's inspiring words, because his voice and his vision filled a great nation, and answered our collective desire to become a country that truly lived by compassion and equal opportunities for all.

The King Holiday is a day to reflect on interracial and intercultural cooperation and sharing. No other day of the year brings so many people of different cultural backgrounds together in such a vibrant spirit.

"This is a special day in American history," said Senator Hardiman. "I look forward to celebrating the leadership of Dr. King as well as the progress we have made in this country on community unity and cooperation."

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